

available. Both authors have an established reputation in this field.

The book begins with a brief historical review which is followed by chapters on the techniques of nerve biopsy and histological processing, and on normal structure. A useful inclusion is a section on preparative artefact. Recent years have witnessed the growth of a large literature, often in journals that should have been better informed, based entirely on artefactual appearances in electron microscope preparations. The next two chapters are devoted to a consideration of the basic pathological mechanisms, including axonal degeneration and regeneration and segmental demyelination and remyelination, and the appearances in individual disorders. The latter is comprehensive but not exhaustive. Occasional misinterpretations from the literature, such as the report on the occurrence of infarcts in peripheral nerve in diabetic neuropathy, have crept in. The topic of peripheral nerve tumours has been given more detailed consideration. This is a difficult field, and the chapter on this topic constitutes a particularly valuable part of the book. The final appendix comprises a short practical guide to the examination of nerve biopsies.

Outside specialised units, peripheral nerve pathology has often been poorly executed in the past, so much so that a report prepared by the World Federation of Neurology in 1970 recommended that nerve biopsy should be undertaken only by units possessing special expertise. This book should contribute towards rectifying this situation.

P. K. THOMAS

Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry. Edited by Norbet W. Tietz. (Pp. xxvi + 1263; illustrated; £24.00.) Philadelphia, London, Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1976.

The second edition of this book is most welcome for during the past six years, since the first edition, many techniques which were largely of a research nature have now been adopted in the diagnostic chemical laboratory. The book is written for students of medicine, biochemistry, and medical technology with an emphasis on the fundamentals of clinical chemistry. There is not only information on analytical procedures and their chemical principles, but also discussion of the clinical significance of the results. Much new information is included on immunochemical techniques, including radioimmunoassay, and methods for the estimation of serum pro-

teins and lipoproteins. There is up-to-date information on quality control procedures, laboratory instrumentation, and the use of computers in clinical chemistry.

The book is comprehensive in its scope, but future editions will be improved by a separate chapter on paediatric and antenatal clinical chemistry. Many techniques relevant to fetoplacental function, antenatal diagnosis of inherited metabolic disease, and congenital malformations are described but scattered throughout the text. There is some inconsistency in the use of units. It would have been better to use either traditional or SI units consistently, and to provide readers with conversion tables as well as factors.

The contributors are largely from North America but now also include Donald Moss (enzymes) and Gregor Grant (proteins and amino-acids) from the United Kingdom and Siggaard-Anderson (blood gases) from Denmark, giving the second edition a more international approach.

The price is competitive when compared with that of similar books but is still expensive. Nevertheless, this is a valuable book to purchase both for the laboratory and for the library.

BRENDA M. SLAVIN

Guide to the Collection and Transport of Virological Specimens (including Chlamydial and Rickettsial Specimens). By C. R. Madeley. (Pp. 40; illustrated; Sw. fr. 10.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1977.

There can be nothing more wasteful of time and effort than to examine specimens which have been taken at the wrong time, from the wrong site, and transported in the wrong way. There are undoubtedly situations where the services of a specialised virus laboratory are required, but the clinician or epidemiologist must take the specimen from the appropriate site, place it in the correct medium, and package it in a way which ensures not only preservation but the safety of those concerned in its handling. Extra special precautions are required for sending samples from one country to another. It is with these points in mind that this book has been written, and Dr C. R. Madeley covers all these points and more in a clear and lucid fashion. It should be at hand in all virus laboratories, not only to refresh the minds of laboratory workers but also to provide a readily available means of educating those who are taking and transporting specimens to the laboratory. It is

to be hoped that the book will find its way into their hands as well.

D. TAYLOR-ROBINSON

Serology of Fungal Infection and Farmer's Lung Disease. A Laboratory Manual. Edited by E. G. V. Evans. (Pp. 368; illustrated; £1.50.) Obtainable from Dr W. Chattaway, Department of Biochemistry, The University of Leeds, Hyde Terrace, Leeds LS2 9LS.

This laboratory manual sets out the serological tests that are available to assist in the diagnosis of candidiasis, aspergillosis, cryptococcosis, histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis, blastomycosis, and farmer's lung. The methods for the tests and for the preparation of the appropriate antigens and antisera are concisely explained. An interpretation of results is made at the end of each section. Details of apparatus, formulae, and of the commercial availability of serodiagnostic kits are given in an appendix. This book succeeds in its purpose of providing details of the simple serological tests in current use, and workers interested in this field should find much of practical value in it.

YVONNE M. CLAYTON

Correction

Slide haemagglutination test in hydatid disease: a corrective study of diagnostic procedures. *Journal of Clinical Pathology* 29, 39 (1976).

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